



Registered Charity No. 264425

**The Annual General Meeting of the Norwich Philharmonic Society will be held  
on Tuesday, 9th July, 2024, at 6.30pm,**

**at The George Hotel, Arlington Lane, (off Newmarket Road), Norwich**

## **AGENDA**

**1. Apologies for absence**

**2. Minutes of the AGM held on 4th July, 2023 (Attached)**

**3. To receive the Chair's Report for 2023/24**

**4. To receive and approve the Accounts, including the Financial Report, for 1 May 2023-30 April 2024 (Accounts will also be available on the website one week before the meeting)**

**5. The President and Vice-Presidents of the Society**

**5.1 To report that :**

Mr Antony Jarrold has announced his intention to step down from his position as President of the Society. His successor will be announced as soon as possible, along with additional Vice-Presidents.

**6. Election of Officers for 2024/25\***

**6.1 Present Officers seeking re-election are:**

**Treasurer: Kate Anetts**

**Orchestra Sub-Committee Chair: Catrina Nixon**

**Chorus Secretary: Sally West-Lindell**

**Orchestra Secretary: Christopher Elston**

**Orchestra Librarian: Caroline Furniss**

**Secretary to the Benefactors & Friends: Kate Anetts**

**Committee Secretary: Alison Rhodes**

*\*Note 1: The Society's Constitution states that: 'The Officers of the Society, (excluding the Chairman and Vice Chairman) shall be elected annually at the AGM.'*

*\*Note 2: The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Society are three-year appointments. Caroline Dixey and Catrina Nixon were re-elected Chair and Vice-Chair respectively for a period of three years from 2022/23 and thus continue in these roles during 2024/25*

**6.2 Election of Front of House (FoH) Manager**

There is a vacancy for a Front of House Manager. Alison Guy, currently one of the Public Representatives on the Committee, has indicated that she will submit a nomination for this role. The role will combine elements of both the FoH Manager role and that of Head Steward, following the retirement of Gerald Cooke.

**6.3 Election of Publicity Officer**

There is a vacancy for a Publicity Officer for which nominations are invited.

## **7. Election of Ordinary Members\*\***

7.1 There are currently two Public Representatives on the Committee: Alison Guy and Simon Suter. Simon is due to complete his term of office this season and has indicated his willingness to serve a further term of three years. If Simon is re-elected and Alison Guy is elected FoH Manager (Agendum 6.2 above refers), there will be two vacancies for Public Representatives for which nominations are invited.

**\*\* Note 1:** *The Society's Constitution states that: 'The ordinary members, whether elected or co-opted, shall retire after three years' service and shall not be eligible for re-election or co-option for one year unless there are insufficient candidates to fill all the vacancies and the Chairman exercises his or her discretion to invite further nominations which may include nominations for retiring members.'*

### **\*\* Note 2: The role of Committee Members**

All elected members of the Committee are Trustees of the charity. Information about the role of a Trustee may be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-what-you-need-to-do>

The Committee normally meets five times a year. It is likely that the first meeting next season will be held in person. Otherwise, The Committee will continue to meet on Zoom which it has done since the start of the Covid19 pandemic on the basis that there has been no discernible impact on the effectiveness of the Committee and has reduced the need for members to travel to meetings.

The Committee welcomes new members. If members are interested and/or are aware of members of the public who might consider getting involved with the Philharmonic, they are welcome to talk in the first instance to the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary or other members of the Committee to find out more.

## **8. Appointment of an Independent Accounts Examiner**

To confirm the re-appointment of Mr Crispin de Boos.

## **9. Presentation of Long Service Awards to Members, and Farewells**

## **10. Looking ahead to the 2024/25 Season (Attached)**

## **11. Any other business (See Note 3 below)**

Alison Rhodes  
NPS Secretary

**Note 3:** *AOB items, written questions or comments on the Minutes or Accounts may be submitted to the Secretary up to 5pm on Monday, 8th July, 2024, by email to [alison.rhodes@btinternet.com](mailto:alison.rhodes@btinternet.com) or in writing (see address below)*

**Note 4:** *Nominations should be sent to: Alison Rhodes Norwich Philharmonic Society c/o 24, Burgess Way, Brooke, Norwich, NR15 1JY*

*to arrive no later than Tuesday, 25th June, 2024 (the closing date).*

## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NORWICH PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY HELD AT THE GEORGE HOTEL, NORWICH, ON TUESDAY, 4TH JULY, 2023, AT 7.30PM**

Caroline Dixey, Chair of the Society's Committee, took the chair for this Annual General Meeting (AGM) on behalf of the Society's President, Antony Jarrold, who was in attendance. Caroline warmly welcomed the President, Members, Benefactors and Friends to this first meeting in person since 2019. She further noted that the 2022/23 season was 'The Phil's' first full season of concerts since 2018/19, the intervening seasons having been disrupted by the Covid19 pandemic.

### **1. Apologies**

It was reported that apologies had been received from 41 members. 39 were in attendance. (Minute 7.4 below refers).

### **2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 28th June, 2022**

The Minutes of the last AGM had been circulated along with the agenda and other papers, via email and post, the requisite period of notice having been given. The Minutes were **approved**, subject to the correction of a typing error at Minute 5.3, proposed by Eryl Pickworth and seconded by Ruth Dodds.

### **3. Chair's Report on the 2022/23 Season**

Caroline Dixey (CD) presented her Chair's Report on the 2022/23 season (attached). Particular attention was drawn to the following:

- i) the continued loyal support, commitment, enthusiasm and flexibility shown by Members, Benefactors and Friends during the season. As noted in the preliminary remarks above, 2022/23 was the first season since 2018/19 during which the Society had been able to deliver a full season of concerts without disruption or cancellation. This had been a great joy and a cause for celebration;
- ii) the continuing impact on the Society's finances following the Covid19 pandemic and current economic challenges, including the rising costs of hiring performance and rehearsal space. These factors had resulted in an in-year loss on concerts for 2022/23, albeit not as great as anticipated, which was pleasing. It was fortunate that the Society would be able to cover the losses from its reserves. Audience numbers, although encouraging, had not consistently returned to pre-pandemic norms, with the exception of the November concert which had slightly exceeded expectations. It would not be possible to continue covering losses via the reserves on an indefinite basis, however, and consequently, the Committee had taken the decision to raise membership subscription fees to £95 (if paying in one instalment) or to £100 (if paying in two). Student members would continue to receive a 50% discount and there were arrangements in place for hardship cases. Ticket prices would also rise slightly in 2023/24 to £20/£14 (The Halls/Norfolk Showground) with student/under 26s tickets pegged at £8. Ticket prices for the concert at Norwich's Anglican Cathedral in March, 2024, would range from £25/£22/£20 to £15 to help cover the increased costs of hiring the space. The report by the Society's Treasurer (Minute 4 below refers) would deal in more detail with the financial position;
- iii) the sad loss of three members of the Society during 2022/23: the Front of House Manager and member of the Committee, Sue Prutton; Chorus member and former Chorus Representative on the Committee, Frances Beadle; and Chorus member, Sue Bailey;
- iv) the retirement of Liz Marjoram, Leader of the Orchestra, at the end of the season. 'The Phil' had expressed its appreciation of Liz's huge contribution. Liz's connection with the Society was continuing, however, as she was now a member of the Chorus;
- v) the presentation, before the Christmas concert in December, 2022, of Long Service Awards to Margaret Rowe (67 years' membership) and Dorothy Philpott (60 years' membership). This was a remarkable achievement and both Margaret and Dorothy well-deserved the Society's congratulations and thanks;
- vi) the Society's thanks and good wishes for the future to Vivien Rose (lead violin) and Connie Davies (first violin) who had recently stood down from the Orchestra after many years' service;
- vii) as most members were aware, the retirement at the end of the 2023/24 season, of David Dunnett as Chorus Conductor after an outstanding twenty-eight years with 'The Phil'. Whilst devastating, members understood that David felt that the time had come to hand on the baton. There would be plenty of opportunities during next season to acknowledge and thank David for his huge contribution to 'The Phil';

- viii) the appointment of Chris Rayfield as the new Leader of the Orchestra from next season, vice Liz Marjoram. Chris was already a member of the orchestra so would take up her new role having first-hand experience;
- ix) the appointment, after a thorough and careful selection process, of Ashley Grote as Chorus Conductor from 2023/24, vice David Dunnett. Ashley, the Master of Music at Norwich Cathedral, was known to many members who were very much looking forward to working with him;
- x) the visit by members of the Chorus to Koblenz, to join the Musik-Institut Koblenz in a performance of Mendelssohn's Elijah on 5th April, 2024. This would be the first visit since 2017, the projected visit in 2021 having been cancelled because of the Covid19 pandemic;
- xi) the continuing work on a possible new commission for the Norfolk and Norwich Festival 2025, based on The Strangers of Norwich. CD acknowledged the hard work undertaken by members of the Committee on the project, in particular, Catrina Nixon and Alison Guy. The outcome was still uncertain in the light of an unsuccessful second bid to Arts Council England but preparations/bids would proceed for the time being;
- xii) fund-raising efforts during the year, including the March after-concert party organised by Sally West-Lindell and other events, in particular 'Jazz in the Garden' hosted by Michelle and Richard Martin. This enjoyable event raised a magnificent £1500 for The Phil, including a raffle organised by Sally;
- xiii) the hard work and commitment throughout the year of: members of the Committee; the Society's Vice-Chair and Chair of the Orchestra Sub-Committee, Catrina Nixon; the Treasurer and Secretary to Benefactors and Friends, Kate Anetts; the Chorus and Orchestra Conductors, David Dunnett and Matt Andrews; the rehearsal pianist, Tim Patient; the Chorus, Orchestra and Committee Secretaries (Sally West-Lindell, Rob Barnes, and Alison Rhodes); members of the Appointment Panel for the new Chorus Conductor (Sally West-Lindell, Paul Henderson, Alexandra Atherton and Matt Andrews alongside Caroline Dixey and supported by Paul Allen and Diana Hare); Judy Trygvasson, the web-manager and Newsletter editor; Gerald Cooke, Chief Steward and team at The Halls; Matt Andrews and Caroline Furniss for once again devising and leading the annual quiz (noting that the next quiz would be held on Friday, 26th January, 2024); and all Benefactors, Friends and Members for their continued loyal support and generosity.

#### **4. Annual Accounts, including the Financial Report for 1 May, 2022 to 30 April, 2023**

The Treasurer, Kate Anetts, referred to the Annual Accounts and the Financial Report that had been circulated. In her report, the Treasurer highlighted the following:

2022/23 had been the first full season without disruptions or cancellations since 2018/19. The end of year financial out-turn had produced a modest cash surplus of £2390, of which

£2k was a donation contingent on 'The Strangers' project. Outstanding liabilities amounted to £3175, resulting in an overall deficit of £2785 (excluding 'The Strangers' donation). This outcome was an improvement on the £17k deficit for 2021/22. Income had been better than anticipated for the November concert but lower than expected for the early December concert (which had been affected by bad weather, a concert clash with the Cathedral and World Cup football) and also for the Christmas concert (at 80% capacity against the planned 95%);

ii) with regard to policy relating to the Society's reserves, the aim was to maintain unrestricted net reserves of around 100% of the full cost of concert expenditure (about £60k) to cover any significant fall in income, any shortfall in cash flow and as a contingency against any unexpected events. Restricted funds were maintained in accordance with the wishes of the benefactor(s). Any unrestricted cash above this was treated as designated funds, set by the Committee, for development, training, education, projects and encouraging younger members. Current unrestricted cash assets at the end of the year totalled £63437; restricted funds amounted to £5353; fixed assets were valued at £4787 and there was £33854 invested in relatively low yield/low risk investments. Total net assets amounted to £107431. This policy was kept under review by the Committee;

iii) looking ahead to the 2023/24 season, balancing income and expenditure would continue to be a challenge in the face of rising costs (including a 50% rise in the cost of hiring rehearsal space at The Hewett Academy), unpredictable income and the impact of the closure of The Halls. Nevertheless, the concert programmes looked very exciting (Minute 10 below refers) and it was hoped that audiences would keep supporting 'The Phil'.

**4.2** Responding to a question about the donation towards 'The Strangers' project, the Chair confirmed that if the project did not proceed the donation would have to be returned, unless the donor gave

permission to use it for other projects. The Treasurer added that a further generous donation had just been received for 'The Strangers' project from the Geoffrey Watling Charity.

**4.3** On behalf of all members, the Chair thanked the Treasurer for her very hard work in very difficult and challenging circumstances.

**4.4** The Accounts and Financial Report were **approved**, proposed by Barbara Wildman and seconded by Rachel Clayton.

## **5. Proposed amendment to the Constitution**

**5.1** The Chair introduced this item, noting that the proposal was to restore the role of Orchestral Librarian as an Officer (and Trustee) of the Society (paragraph 5 of the current Constitution refers). The role had been removed from the list of Officers several years ago, when it was decided to reduce the number of Officers. Since then, the role had been carried out by the current role-holder alongside duties initially as Orchestra Representative and, following the conclusion of this term of office, as a co-opted member of the Committee appointed by the Chair under paragraph 7 of the Constitution.

**5.2** Following a review, the Committee had unanimously agreed to recommend to the AGM that the role be restored to the list of Officers, the rationale being that the role was a complex one, requiring the holder to liaise with the Conductor regarding repertoire scores and selected edition(s); to arrange their hire, distribution and subsequent collection and to advise on performing rights issues, ensuring observance in performance of legal requirements. As such the role was highly valued by the Orchestra Conductor, Orchestra and Committee.

**5.3** Proposed by Kate Anetts and seconded by Alison Guy, the proposal to re-instate the role of Orchestral Librarian as an Officer (and Trustee) of the Society was unanimously **approved**.

## **6. Election of Officers for 2023/24**

**6.1** It was reported that the Officers (Kate Anetts, Rob Barnes, Catrina Nixon, Alison Rhodes and Sally West-Lindell), had indicated that they were seeking re-election. Proposed by Pat Stephenson and seconded by Eryl Pickworth, they were **duly re-elected**, en bloc.

**6.2** In the light of the decision to restore the role of Orchestra Librarian to the list of Officers of the Society (Minute 5 above refers), it was reported that Caroline Furniss had indicated her willingness to serve in this role. No other nominations had been received. Proposed by Pat Stephenson and seconded by Alison Rhodes, Caroline Furniss was **duly elected** to serve a one-year term of office from 2023/24 as Orchestra Librarian, being one of the Officers of the Society.

**6.3** The role of Front of House Manager was vacant, vice the late Sue Prutton (see Minute 3iii) above). As no nominations had been received, the position remained unfilled.

**6.4** There was a vacancy for the role of Publicity Officer. As no nominations had been received, this position also remained unfilled.

**6.5** The Chair encouraged members to consider whether they might be able to volunteer for any of the vacant roles or pass on the names of anyone who might be interested, noting that they did not need to be members of the Society.

## **7. Election of Ordinary Members**

### **7.1 Chorus Representative**

The Chair reported that Alex Atherton, Chorus Representative, had now completed her term of office. Alex had indicated her willingness to continue in the role for another term of three years. As no other nominations had been received, the Chair (CD), had exercised her discretion under the provisions of paragraph 7 of the Constitution to invite Alex to submit a nomination once again. Proposed by Ruth Dodds and seconded by Rachel Clayton, Alex Atherton was **duly re-elected** Chorus Representative for a further term of office. CD thanked Alex for her work as Chorus Representative and for agreeing to stand again.

### **7.2 Orchestra Representative**

Similarly, the Chair noted that Steve Kent-Davies had also completed his term of office as Orchestra Representative. Steve had also indicated his willingness to continue in the role for another term of three years. As no other nominations had been received, re-election was permitted under the terms of paragraph 7 of the Constitution (as per Minute 7.1 above). Proposed by Alison Rhodes and seconded by Judy Tryggvason, Steve Kent-Davies was **duly re-elected** for a further term of office. CD thanked Steve for his work as Orchestra Representative and for agreeing to stand again.

### **7.3 Public Representative**

There was one vacancy for a Public Representative, alongside Simon Suter (appointed from 2021/22) and Alison Guy (appointed from 2022/23). As no nominations had been received, the role of third Public Representative remained vacant.

### **8. Appointment of Independent Accounts Examiner**

The Chair reminded those present that at the AGM in June, 2022, the appointment of Crispin de Boos as Independent Accounts Examiner had been endorsed in respect of 2021/22 and 2022/23. CD proposed that Crispin de Boos be re-appointed for a further year (2023/24).

Proposed by Sally West-Lindell and seconded by Rob Barnes, Crispin de Boos was **duly re-appointed** Independent Accounts Examiner for 2023/24. .

### **9. Long Service Awards**

Drawing attention once more to the outstanding service of Margaret Rowe and Dorothy Philpott (see Minute 3v) above), the Chair reported that there were no other Awards to be presented this year.

### **10. Looking ahead to the 2023/24 Season**

**10.1** Inviting the Chair of the Orchestra Sub-Committee (Catrina Nixon (CN)) and the Chorus Conductor (David Dunnett (DD)) to give an overview of the programmes for 2023/24, CD observed that the season promised to be an exciting and varied one, but that some changes to the usual concert pattern and changes of venue had had to be made, because of the closure of The Halls for at least a year from January, 2024, for refurbishment. Creativity, flexibility, and necessity had been the drivers in the selection of programmes and venues. It would be very important, (including for financial reasons) to publicise the concerts as widely as possible.

**10.2** Turning to the list of programmes that had been circulated with the agenda, CN explained that:

i) the first concert, on 4th November, 2023, would be a full-scale choral work (Elgar's 'The Kingdom') rather than the usual half-orchestral, half-choral programme. DD added that he considered St Andrew's Hall a better fit for this large-scale choral work than the Cathedral which had a smaller capacity (see Minute 10.2 iv) below). He noted that this piece was perhaps less well known than the other two great Elgar choral works, The Dream of Gerontius and the Apostles, both of which the Chorus and Orchestra had previously performed, but that it was very worthwhile learning and he was very much looking forward to it. It was noted that the soloists had still to be announced;

ii) the Orchestra would present its concert on 9th December, also at The Halls, offering Rimsky Korsakov's The Snowmaiden, Dohnanyi's Variations on a Nursery Song and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4 in F minor. The soloist for the Dohnanyi piece was the renowned pianist, Martin Roscoe, who would be making a welcome return to Norwich;

iii) keeping up the 'Phil' tradition, the great Family Christmas concert would take place on Tuesday, 19th December, at The Halls, just prior to The Halls' closure;

(iv) in a change to the usual pattern of concerts, the Orchestra and Chorus would give their next concert on 9th March, 2024, at Norwich's Anglican Cathedral. As space was a consideration (for performers, as well as audience) the programme would consist of Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 in C minor and Mozart's Requiem in D minor. Both pieces required a smaller orchestral configuration. Soloists had yet to be announced;

(v) the season's finale would now take place on 20th April, at the Norfolk Showground Arena. Presenting 'The Phil goes to the movies', this orchestral programme of classic and popular film music from some of the greatest hits in cinema was likely to have popular appeal. Full details of the programme were being finalised.

**10.3** CN also announced that the Society's Committee had recently supported a proposal to present an additional orchestral concert during next season, utilising the Orchestra's usual February slot. Following the successful Family Concert held in 2022 at the Showground Arena, the extra concert would again be aimed at children, particularly young children and their families.

Arrangements were being finalised, but it was likely that the concert would take place on 10th February, 2024, at a venue new to 'The Phil', viz, The Kings Centre on King Street, Norwich. Seating up to c650, the venue offered flexible space and a reasonable acoustic, had an on-site cafe and there were several car parks in the vicinity as well as reasonably

close bus routes. The programme was to be confirmed but there was a strong possibility that it would include 'The Knight who took all day'. Actor Bernard Hughes had agreed to narrate the piece. It was envisaged that the programme would last around an hour and that there would be two performances, both in the afternoon. It was planned that children would be able to try out some of the instruments. The concert was being planned on a break-even cost basis.

**10.4** Members present welcomed the above programmes and endorsed the proposed 'Kids Concert' regarding this as part of the Society's responsibility to attract, interest and develop potential musicians and audiences of the future.

**10.5** DD added how delighted he was that Ashley Grote had been appointed his successor as Chorus Conductor (Minute 3ix) above refers). Ashley was very much looking forward to working with the Chorus and Orchestra.

## **11. Any other business**

**11.1** The Chair reported that no items of other business had been formally notified. She therefore brought the meeting to a close, re-iterating her very grateful thanks to all members of the Committee for their hard work and support during the year; to Benefactors, Friends and Members for their continued loyal support of the Society; and to all who supported the Society in a wide range of roles. She also thanked everyone for attending the AGM and looked forward to a very enjoyable and uplifting season ahead whether at The Halls, The Showground, The Cathedral or The Kings Centre.

**11.2** On behalf of all those present, Sally West-Lindell thanked The Chair for her leadership of and work for the Society.

**NORWICH PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY**  
**CHAIR'S REPORT ON THE 2022/23 SEASON**

A very warm welcome to you all to this AGM. It's wonderful to meet in person for the first time since 2019! We can also celebrate the completion of a full year of Phil concerts for the first time since 2018/19.

How lovely it was, therefore, to see the orchestra and chorus assemble for a much-anticipated November concert in which the orchestra opened the season with a sparkling, scintillating performance of 'Argentum' by the young composer Dani Howard. This was followed by the quieter sounds of 'In the Fen Country' by Ralph Vaughan Williams in celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. The chorus and orchestra then joined forces in a rousing performance of Carl Orff's popular 'Carmina Burana'. This was very well-received by the audience who responded well to the sight of the tenor soloist donning a rubber ring in the shape of a swan for the lament of said bird whilst roasting on the spit.

The orchestra's December concert transported us to the romantic city of Paris, celebrating another composer's anniversary – this time the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Cesar Franck. Franck's Symphony in D minor was followed by Poulenc's piano concerto, beautifully performed by Mark Bebbington and completed by the spectacular shimmer of Stravinsky's 1919 version of the Firebird Suite. A real treat that was lapped up by the relatively sparse audience (a combination of very cold weather, a clash with The Messiah at the Cathedral and a World Cup football match!)

Following on rapidly came the welcome return of the Phil's Family Christmas concert. This well-loved and well-attended event, although it was not a complete sell-out, was a joyful prelude to Christmas, with appropriately festive items by choir, orchestra, audience and, of course. Tim 'fingers' Patient on the organ.

Another anniversary was marked at the orchestra's February concert. This time, it was the composer Prokofiev who celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of the writer Pushkin, in his delightful 'Pushkin Waltzes'. There was then an opportunity to hear the Swiss composer, Martin's, Symphonie Concertante, followed by Rachmaninov's Symphony No. 2. The Phil was honoured to open the Norwich Science Festival with this concert. Did you know that there was a connection between Rachmaninov and Ivor Sikorsky (of helicopter fame)? Apparently, Rachmaninov was interested in engineering and gave a loan to Sikorsky at a crucial point in the latter's career (thanks to Matt for this nugget). Before the start of the concert, some of us heard about the 'Acoustics of Musical Instruments' in an interesting and informative talk given by Andy Thompson, Principal Horn Player. Thank you, Andy.

We brought the 2022/23 season to a majestic close with a wonderful rendition of Mendelssohn's 'Elijah'. This very well attended concert drew many compliments from members of the audience and it was interesting to spot a couple of the soloists in the choir for the King's Coronation.

May I take this opportunity to congratulate all of you on delivering an interesting and varied season. You once again showed commitment, flexibility and determination. I hope too that you also enjoyed both rehearsals and performances.

All the above, however, comes at a cost. The Society's finances have previously been affected by the Covid19 pandemic and this year, we have been hit by rising prices. Our audiences, although encouraging, have not consistently returned to pre-pandemic 'norms', with the exception of the November concert, which slightly exceeded our expectations. Looking ahead, we continue to face increased prices for hire of performance and rehearsal space. In addition, we have to seek alternative accommodation in the light of the recent announcement of the closure of The Halls for welcome refurbishment. Our Treasurer, Kate Anetts, will give more detail about the financial position in the Financial Report, but I would like to highlight that the Society aims to produce a 'break-even' budget each year and, having reviewed the projections for next year, the Committee has taken the decision to raise Membership subscriptions for next season to £95 (if paying in one instalment) or £50 per term (if paying in two instalments). Student members receive a 50% discount and there are arrangements in place for hardship cases. Although this may seem like a large percentage



increase in subscriptions, members should note that the £20 per person increase will lead to an estimated increase in income of c£3000. As well as general inflationary costs, the Walter Roy Theatre rates have gone up by around £1100, the extra cost of using Norwich Cathedral is around £1800 and we also have the added risk to ticket sales of using Norwich Cathedral and the Showground for concerts. The Cathedral does not have the capacity of St Andrew's Hall and the Showground, although we have used it before, is an uncertain quantity in terms of attracting an audience. We will keep a close eye on the financial performance of the Society, as always, but do rely on effective publicity and the support of members in bringing in audiences. If we can maintain this membership rate for more than a year, we will, but this will depend on the outcome for the year and the projections for the following year.

Ticket prices will also rise slightly to £20/£14 (The Halls/Norwich Showground) with students'/under 26s' tickets pegged at £8. There are higher ticket prices for the Cathedral concert, £25; £22; £20 and £15, to help cover costs. Because of the variety of venues, we have decided not to offer season tickets this year.

The Society does hold a good level of reserves but needs to maintain between £50,000 and £60,000 to cover the potential downside of a poor season. Any additional reserves, as we have at present, could be designated towards specific projects, such as supporting a commission, supporting the development of a youth choir or young musicians to ensure that the Society can continue to thrive into the future and the Committee will discuss this further.

As well as a sense of achievement that the end of a season usually brings, there is also a sense of loss. Many of you will have seen in the Newsletter that there are a number of farewells. We sadly lost our Front of House Manager and Committee member, Sue Prutton, in January. We have since lost France Beadle, Chorus member and former member of the Committee; and Sue Bailey, another member of the Chorus. Sue Prutton and Frances were both very active members of the Committee. May they rest in peace.

The March concert was the last concert for the Leader of the Orchestra, Liz Marjoram. Liz was presented with gifts from both orchestra and chorus as a token of our esteem. Thank you, Liz, for your wonderful playing and input into and support of the orchestra. We'll continue to see Liz, in another guise, as she is now a member of the Chorus. Welcome, Liz!

We also say farewell and thank you to two other long-standing members of the orchestra who have stood down after many years: Vivien Rose (lead viola) and Connie Davies (first violin). We send them both our very best wishes for the future.

2023/24 will see us marking the end of another sterling contribution to 'The Phil'. As you know, David Dunnett, Chorus Conductor, has announced that next season will be his last with the Phil, after an outstanding 28 years. We're devastated but we understand that David feels that the time has come to hand on the baton. There'll be plenty of opportunities for us to acknowledge David's contribution. So, watch this space!

Our Christmas concert was a suitably festive occasion on which to mark an incredible 127 years in the Phil Chorus notched up by Margaret Rowe (alto) – 67 years with the Phil and Dorothy Philpott (soprano) - 60 years with the Phil. What an achievement. Many congratulations to them and may they both continue to enjoy singing.

Farewells and thank yous said, we now say 'welcome' to new Phil members. We extend a warm Phil welcome to Chris Rayfield who takes over from Liz as Leader of the Orchestra from next season. Chris is already playing with the orchestra, so has first-hand experience.

After a thorough and careful selection process involving many members of the chorus, I am delighted to announce that Ashley Grote has been appointed to the role of Chorus Conductor, from 2024/25. Most of you will know Ashley, who is Master of Music at Norwich Cathedral. We are excited about working with Ashley and look forward to working with him.

Catrina and David will talk about the planned programme for the coming year later in the meeting, with an exciting extra announcement from Catrina! As I mentioned above, the closure of The Halls in 2024 has caused alterations to our usual schedule of performances and has also necessitated venue changes in 2024. As The Halls will still be closed, the first three concerts (in November and two in December) will be elsewhere. It is most likely that we will also have to change dates/venues of the concerts usually held in February and March, 2025, if

the Halls' refurbishment is not completed to time and we are already looking at options for this and programming for 2024/5.

Another issue to mention is that Gerald Cooke has indicated that he would like to retire as Head Steward and that several of the other stewards are now quite elderly. We will need to look at solutions to this alongside replacing Sue as Front of House Manager. We have some ideas but if any members would like to get involved, please let us know.

Members of the Chorus will recall that we were planning to visit Koblenz in 2021, to perform with the Musik Institut there. Sadly, this visit was cancelled, a casualty of the pandemic. I am therefore delighted to confirm that we are now making a welcome return between 3rd - 7th April 2024, to perform Elijah (on the 5th April). A working group has been set up to co-ordinate the arrangements and we are pleased that a good number of members have already said that they are interested. For those who have not been before, the concerts are a great occasion, it is a beautiful area and we always receive a very warm welcome from our friends in Koblenz.

Looking further ahead to May, 2025 and the Norfolk and Norwich Festival, you will be aware that The Phil, together with the N&N Festival, has been looking into the possibility of commissioning a new work for orchestra and chorus, based on The Strangers of Norwich. A number of bids have been made and some funds of £8,000 have been received or promised towards the budgeted costs of c£60,000. Commissioning works is not cheap but we believe that it is important that contemporary artists are commissioned and that this is an exciting work for Norwich, which has strong engagement support from many potential partners. Sadly, we have just heard that a second application to the Arts Council has been rejected. This is very disappointing news; however, we are going to have one last go at reviewing the budget and seeking other sources of funding. If any members are interested in getting involved, please talk to Catrina, Alison Guy, or myself. Whatever the outcome, may I pay tribute to the extraordinary amount of work that Phil members have put into the project, in particular Catrina Nixon and Alison Guy. Thank you to all involved.

I would also like to thank Michelle and Richard Martin for putting on a fantastic Jazz in the Garden event in their beautiful garden, with funds raised shared between Hapton Church and The Phil. It was a tremendous evening including a performance from the Phil's own Horn Quartet and a Jazz trio featuring Ivars Galenieks our lead double bass player in the orchestra. Thank you to them all and Sally for organising an excellent and successful raffle. The event raised £1500 for Phil funds.

Finally, I should like to record my most grateful thanks to: members of the Committee who have worked so hard this season: our Vice-Chair and Chair of the Orchestra Sub-Committee, Catrina; our Treasurer, Kate; our conductors, David and Matt, and rehearsal pianist, Tim; Sally, Rob and Alison, our Chorus, Orchestra and Committee Secretaries; Sally, Alex, Paul and Matt for their hard work as members, with me, on the Appointments Panel for our new Chorus Director and supported by Paul Allen and Diana Hare; our Publicity Group; Judy, our website and Newsletter maestro; Gerald Cooke, Chief Steward and the stewarding team at The Halls; Caroline and Matt for once again challenging our 'little grey cells' in the Phil quiz (*date for your diaries: the next quiz will be held on Friday, 26th January, 2024, so you have plenty of time to prepare!*); Sally for organising the March after-concert party and other fund-raising efforts; our generous Benefactors and Friends; and to all the members, for continuing to maintain and develop the strong and cherished traditions of 'The Phil'.

Caroline Dixey

Chair

Norwich Philharmonic Society



## 2024/25 Season Preview

**Saturday 9th November** – Norwich Cathedral  
**Norwich Philharmonic Chorus and Orchestra**  
**Ashley Grote** conductor  
*Soloists tbc*  
**Haydn** The Creation

**Saturday 7th December** – The Kings Centre  
**Philharmonic Orchestra**  
**Matthew Andrews** conductor  
*Soloist tbc*  
**Holst** Indra  
**Sibelius** Pohjola's Daughter  
**Mahler** Symphony No. 4

**Tuesday 17th December** – Norfolk Events Centre  
**Norwich Philharmonic Chorus and Orchestra**  
**Matthew Andrews** and **Ashley Grote** conductors  
***The Phil's Family Christmas Concert***

**Saturday 15th February** - Norfolk Events Centre  
**Norwich Philharmonic Orchestra**  
**Matthew Andrews** conductor  
with **Workshop Studios Dance Company**  
*Programme to include:*  
**Stravinsky** Rite of Spring

**Saturday 22nd March** The Kings Centre, Norwich  
**Norwich Philharmonic Orchestra**  
**Matthew Andrews** conductor  
***The Phil's Children's Concerts***  
with **James Mayhew** *narrator*

**Saturday 5th April** - Norfolk Events Centre  
**Norwich Philharmonic Chorus and Orchestra**  
**Matthew Andrews** and **Ashley Grote** conductors  
**Jill Morton** *piano*  
*Vocal soloist tbc*  
**Gershwin** An American in Paris  
**Lambert** Rio Grande  
**Gershwin** Rhapsody in Blue  
**Rutter** Feel the Spirit  
**Marquez** Danson No.2

Tickets and booking details to be announced.



## Objectives and Activities

The Society aims to educate the public in the arts and sciences, and in particular the art and science of music, by the presentation of concerts and other activities.

The Society holds five concerts each year, these are supplemented by the subscriptions of the Society's members together with fundraising events held during the year.

The trustees have given due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and have complied with their duties as detailed in the Charities Act 2011 with regard to public benefit. Careful consideration has been given to the accessibility of the Society to as wide a community as possible. Reduced membership rates are offered to student members of the Choir and Orchestra and reduced price admission to all concerts is offered to students and to members of the Norfolk Youth Orchestra. Two Family Concerts during the year brought in new audiences with young families.

## Financial Review

We budgeted for a small deficit (£723) to allow for high projected costs for the cathedral concert in March. Higher income and lower (but still expensive) costs on this event balanced the lower income and higher costs than expected on the other concerts in the season.

A capital purchase of £1,650 was made, for tubular bells.

There were no payments to Trustees during the year.

Net receipts for the year are a surplus of £3,320. Allowing for outstanding costs on concerts and administration gives a working net surplus of £1,551.

## Reserves Policy

The Society works to a break-even annual budget, with the expected concert financial deficit offset by subscriptions, fundraising and Gift Aid income.

The Society aims to maintain unrestricted net current assets of around 100% of the concert season expenditure, (currently £60,000 - £65,000) to cover any significant fall in income and as a contingency against unexpected events and any shortfall in cash flow.

Restricted fund reserves are maintained in accordance with the benefactors' wishes.

Any remaining net current assets are treated as designated funds, set by the committee for development, education and training and for capital projects.

Development, education and training covers special performances, development and sustainability, commissioning a choral work and encouraging a younger membership.

Capital projects covers the purchase and replacement of instruments and equipment, also renewals and repairs.

Norwich Philharmonic Society holds an adequate level of unrestricted net current assets as reserves (£75,647). Total net assets (£115,632) include investment assets held in relatively low yield, low risk investments. This policy is subject to periodic review by the committee. Grants and donations of £7,000 towards the Strangers project are held in a separate account, which will be returned to donors if the project does not take place..

Bankers	HSBC	Bank of Scotland	Lloyds Bank
	18 London Street	PO Box 1000	PO Box 1000
	Norwich, NR2 1LG	BX2 1LB	Andover

Independent Examiner	Crispin de Boos
	The White House, Sandfield Lane, Eccles, Norwich NR16 2PB

Declaration The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

*L C Dixey*

L C Dixey (Chair) date 29 May 2024

Norwich Philharmonic Society

Year ended 30 April 2024

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2024

Receipts	2023/24			Strangers account	2022/23 £
	unrestricted	restricted	total £		
Concert income	42,747		42,747		32,913
Family concerts income	6,336		6,336		
Subscriptions	18,221		18,221		14,809
Fundraising	9,674		9,674		3,024
Gift Aid	3,970		3,970		3,471
Donations & Legacies	574		574		748
Interest	724		724		264
Investment income	1,199		1,199		1,409
Choir training, Koblenz		-	-		200
Orchestra training		-	-		250
Strangers project				5,000	2,000
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>83,445</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>83,445</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>59,088</b>

  

Payments	2023/24			Strangers	2022/23 £
	unrestricted	restricted	total £		
Concerts costs	60,268		60,268		51,222
Family concerts costs	4,735		4,735		
Fundraising	6,474		6,474		1,603
Membership administration	91		91		256
General administration	664		664		755
Insurance, subs, audit	738		738		708
Capital purchases	1,650		1,650		1,319
Choir training, Koblenz		2,051	2,051		-
Orchestra training	57		57		616
Choral conductor selection	250		250		-
Deposits prepayments	57		57		-
Prior year	3,091		3,091		220
Strangers project				-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>78,074</b>	<b>2,051</b>	<b>80,125</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>56,698</b>

  

<b>Net Receipts</b>	<b>5,371</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,320</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>2,390</b>
Cash funds brought forward	63,013	3,353	66,366	2,000	65,976
Transfer of restricted/designated funds			0		0
<b>Cash funds carried forward</b>	<b>68,384</b>	<b>1,302</b>	<b>69,686</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>68,366</b>

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 30 April 2024

	2023/24			Strangers	2022/23 £
	unrestricted	restricted	total £		
Cash Funds					
COIF deposit account	10,870		10,870		10,400
Virgin Money deposit	20,666		20,666		20,463
Cash at bank	36,848	1,302	38,150	7,000	37,503
<b>Total Cash Funds</b>	<b>68,384</b>	<b>1,302</b>	<b>69,686</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>68,365</b>
Other monetary assets (debtors)	1	5,500	5,500		3,600
Liabilities	2	1,763	1,763		(3,175)
Current assets (net)		75,647	1,302	76,949	7,000
Investment assets (at cost)		33,854		33,854	33,854
Retained (fixed) assets	3	4,829		4,829	4,787
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>114,330</b>	<b>1,302</b>	<b>115,632</b>	<b>7,000</b>

NOTES

(1) Debtors	Gift Aid	5,500	3,000
	Piano fund grant		600
		5,500	3,600
(2) Liabilities	Concert costs	553	2,005
	Family concert	200	400
	PRS	500	700
	100 club	510	70
		1,763	3,175

(3) Retained assets	net book value		Depreciation at 25%	£ NBV at 30/4/24
	at 1/5/23	£ Additions		
Timpani, Trailer, Equipment	224		56	168
Instruments, Cases	222		56	167
Celeste, Glockenspiel	1,669		417	1,252
Staging & Acoustic Screens	2,599		650	1,949
Music Stands	74		19	56
Tubular Bells		1,650	413	1,238
	<b>4,788</b>	<b>1,650</b>	<b>1,610</b>	<b>4,829</b>

L C Dixey

L C Dixey (Chair)

29-May-24

K B Anetts

K B Anetts (Treasurer)

29-May-24

Norwich Philharmonic Society  
Year ended 30 April 2024

## Independent Examiner's report

I report on the accounts of the Norwich Philharmonic Society for the year ended 30 April 2024 which are set out on the preceding pages.

### Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act), and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of the Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a true and fair view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent Examiner



date 29 May 2024

Crispin de Boos  
The White House  
Sandfield Lane  
Eccles  
Norwich NR16 2PB



Registered Charity No. 264425

## NOMINATION FORM

We, being members of the Society, hereby nominate

.....

(Block capitals)

To serve as.....

Proposer's name..... Signature .....

Seconder's name..... Signature.....

Nominee's signature ..... Date.....

Please ensure that each proposer/seconder/nominee is aware of and agrees to their name being put forward.

**Nominations should be sent to:**

**Alison Rhodes,  
Norwich Philharmonic Society,  
c/o 24, Burgess Way,  
Brooke,  
Norwich, NR15 1JY**

**to arrive no later than Tuesday, 25th June, 2024 (the closing date).**